

GRILL ELWELL'S FRIEND IN HUNT FOR NEW CLUE

Three Assistant District Attorneys Scent Fresh Angle on Murder.

ROBBERY MOTIVE AGAIN

One Official Has Theory Also That Victim Sought Intruders When Slain.

Several officials engaged in the inquiry into the murder of Joseph Elwell motored last night to the home of one of the dead victim's acquaintances and spent the evening putting the man through the severest kind of grilling.

The strictest secrecy attended the affair, and no intimation was given as to the nature of the questions hurled at this man or as to the results of the session. The matter, however, is regarded as highly significant in view of recent statements that an arrest is not far distant.

The official party, it is understood, included three Assistant District Attorneys, John T. Dooling, John F. Joyce and Albert Blagg Unger, as well as two detectives attached to the police homicide squad.

Conference in Swann's Office.

This expedition followed a Sunday of unusual official activities. The members of the party that made the trip spent the afternoon in conference at the District Attorney's office with Capt. Arthur Carey of the police homicide squad and Capt. Thomas C. Walsh of the precinct in which the murder was committed.

In the early part of the afternoon reporters had been barred from the Criminal Courts Building for fear their presence might be disconcerting to witnesses who were questioned by the conference and whose names were kept secret. When the newspaper men finally did gain access to the District Attorney's office Mr. Dooling announced it would be impossible to make public any of the latest developments in the case, but intimated they had been encouraging the investigators.

"We don't look downhearted, do we?" he asked.

Mr. Dooling explained that although recent inquiries have tended to focus attention upon one person, the investigators are proceeding with open minds. "We are working along every line that shows promise," he said, "irrespective of who may be the individual to whom our suspicions point."

An official who has been conducting one line of the investigation made some disclosures that may be regarded as highly important.

"It is the theory of several persons working upon this case," he said, "that the assassin admitted himself to Elwell's house while the card expert, asleep, was lying across his bed upstairs."

Theory to Explain Bare Feet.

"This," he said, "would account for the fact that Elwell was barefoot when he was slain. Now if the slayer had rung Elwell's door bell, as some persons have suggested, Elwell probably would have put on his shoes or slippers before answering the ring. Any one would do that. The fact that Elwell descended from his room on the third floor to the first without shoes or slippers on indicates one thing to me—that he heard some one moving about inside of his house and he crept downstairs barefoot in order that he might make no noise."

"Now suppose," added this official, "that the man, for we are very certain it was a man, who had come there to kill Elwell was hiding somewhere on that first floor when the card expert came downstairs. Perhaps he crouched behind a chair in the reception room. Elwell then in all probability glanced about the place and concluded there had been no ground for his apprehensions. His natural tendency would have been to try the front door to see if any one had been attempting to force it."

Deduction From Feet's Condition.

"In so doing he would have found his mail. His fears dispelled, he might have seated himself in the reception room to open his mail when the intruder descended from his hiding place and shot him. "The detectives," this official added, "have made a careful examination of the soles of Elwell's feet to ascertain just how much walking about he could have done without his shoes before the commission of the crime. They have found beyond doubt that he did very little. There was just a small amount of dust upon the soles, such as he must have got from the hardwood staircases which leads from the first to the second floor of his house. Had he been wandering about the premises barefoot for any length of time, or had he been pacing the floor, his feet would have shown it."

In speaking of the likelihood of a man going down stairs to investigate a strange noise without any weapon, the official said: "It is done every day of the week. It is a foolish thing and many a man has met his death just that way."

It further appeared from this official's statements that the authorities are by no means certain robbery was not the motive behind the killing. "The fact that Elwell's cash and valuables were untouched indicates nothing," he said. "If some one that Elwell knew went there for the purpose of robbing him and killed him because his presence had been discovered, it is quite probable this person was in such a hurry to get away that he did not dare stop to take money or valuables with him."

Stick to Cigarette Clue.

This official declared that the investigators feel certain the cigarette found on the floor near Elwell's body was not one of his own.

"I understand it was of a far cheaper grade than the kind Elwell smoked," he said. "We are sure it was dropped by the murderer." In speaking of the theory that one of Elwell's numerous race track associates might have shot him he said: "He was killed in the same manner in which a person kills a horse; that is with a bullet hole in the middle of the forehead. Some people have taken this to support the idea that the slayer was a person who had spent much time around horses. "I personally believe," he added, "that when this crime is solved it will be found to be far different than the theories that have been advanced. The solution will be a big surprise to all of the persons who have been reading and speculating about the case."

N. J. TROLLEY TIEUP HITS EXCURSIONISTS

Sea Breeze Hunters Get Exercise in Walking.

Hundreds of Sunday excursionists to the Atlantic Highlands and Shrewsbury River resorts spoiled their shoe shines yesterday walking to railroad stations, and financed a small boom in taxiab tariffs because of a strike of the fifty-five motormen and conductors of the Jersey Central Traction Company.

Those who penetrated the Jersey resort district only as far as Red Bank had a comparatively easy time getting back to Manhattan and other points, but visitors at Keyport, Matawan and adjacent places were greatly inconvenienced. The traction company trolleys connect with Public Service Corporation lines along the Jersey shore and the Atlantic Coast line at Red Bank.

The tieup went into effect early yesterday as the cars completed the night's runs. No time had been set for the strike, although the company had been notified several days ago that failure to sign a contract agreement recognizing an employees' union would cause a walkout.

Harry Laurensen, head of the strikers, said the company ignored the demands, and there was nothing to do but strike. The result was to compel the sea breeze hunters to cancel a big share of their holiday and devise a means of return.

POLICEMAN AFOUL

OF BLOCK PARTY

Tries to Stop Street Racket and Is Badly Beaten.

Patrolman Thomas P. Cummings of the Beach street station received a black eye and some heavy welts on the nose and chin, besides having his uniform torn, early yesterday morning when he tried to call a halt on a block party attended by thirty young men and women near 150 Light street.

The merry-makers kept up a racket long after the rest of the neighborhood was asleep, or trying to get rest, when the officer intervened. He scarcely had explained the situation to the managers of the affair when he found himself surrounded and some one behind jerked his legs from under him. As he crashed to the pavement most of the young men fell atop and began beating him. The officer got to his feet by using his night stick, but this was taken from him. He was struck a blow with it that cut through the skin under his left eye. Cummings then whistled for assistance and two policemen saved him from further assault. Six arrests were made.

In Tombs Court four of the young men were fined \$15, and paid, and two others, John Hazel, 22 years old, of 271 Hudson street, and Paul O'Callaghan, 17 years old, of 161 Light street, went to a cell, in default of \$2,500 bail, for examination to-day.

THREE DROWNINGS IN

NEW YORK WATERS

Father and Mother See Son Die in Rockaway Surf.

Three persons, two boys and a man, were drowned in the waters about New York city yesterday.

Milton B. Miller, 8 years old, of 29 West 113th street, went out too far in the surf at Rockaway Beach during the afternoon, and was drowned in sight of his father and mother. His body was recovered.

John Del Gaudio, 13, of 78 Carlton avenue, Brooklyn, was drowned in Coney Island Creek, at the foot of Neptune avenue, near Coney Island avenue, while in bathing with John Mulroy of 38 Carlton avenue. The body was recovered by Fred Mills, a life saver.

Joseph Cashman of 17 West 113th street found the body of a man while bathing in the surf at Arverne yesterday afternoon. He dragged the body ashore, where it was identified as that of Anatole Garbel of Fifty-fourth street and Ocean avenue, Arverne.

BRAVES FLAMES TO

SAVE GEMS; MAY DIE

Man Aiding Woman Drops 30 Feet to Street.

After Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Heuer, their three children, and Leon Levy, a boarder, had escaped from a third floor fire yesterday morning Mrs. Heuer exclaimed she had left \$500 in cash and a \$750 diamond ring under a mattress in her bedroom. It was believed the fire had wrecked the apartment by that time, but Mrs. Heuer wrapped a towel about her head and ran toward the burning structure.

Levy ran after her and said he would try to get the valuables. He took the towel and ran to the third floor landing, where he was met by heavy smoke and flames. Choking, he groped his way to a window and crawled to the sill. Firemen yelled to him to hold on while a ladder was run up, but Levy lost his grip and fell thirty feet. He was carried to Gouverneur Hospital, where it was said he may die.

The fire was discovered in the Heuer apartment by Heuer's nine-year-old son, Solomon. The damage was confined to the third floor.

CALIFORNIAN ENDED

LIFE WITH PENKNIFE

Death of Clarence Elder Established as Suicide.

Any mystery supposed to be connected with the death on Saturday of Clarence Elder, Californian, in the Forest Hills Inn, Forest Hills Gardens, was removed yesterday by the announcement of Dr. Howard W. Neall, Deputy Medical Examiner for Queens, that the man had committed suicide. A penknife with which he had slashed his throat was found alongside the body when an attendant found it in the bathroom of his suite, he said.

The manager of the inn stated first that Elder died of apoplexy and struck his head in falling. Mr. Elder was 47 years old and had been in ill health. He came East to visit his mother, who is stopping at the inn, leaving in Los Angeles a bride of a few months.

LEAVES A \$175,000 JEWEL.

Mrs. Bemis Had Also \$1,000,000 in Standard Oil Stock.

An appraisal of the estate of Mrs. Frances L. Bemis of Larchmont, widow of a director of the Standard Oil Company, shows the sole securities to be Liberty bonds amounting to \$3,600 and Standard Oil stock totaling \$1,600,000. The jewels, of which a single piece was appraised at \$175,000, are said to form an unusually rare and expensive collection, purchased mostly in Mrs. Bemis's travels in Japan, China, Egypt and France.



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A Hand in Welcome!

THIS week gives Raymond J. Knoepfel, President of the Rotary Club of New York, a pleasant mission to perform. In his hands lies the official welcome extended to visiting Rotarians who, returning from the great International Convention at Atlantic City, have stopped to spend a few days in New York—days which New York Rotarians are doing their best to make eventful.

If there is anything of importance in the city, or surrounding it, which these distinguished visitors from all over the world fail to see, it will not be the fault of the New York club and its hard-working Entertainment Committee.

For the benefit of those unfamiliar with the marvelous growth of Rotary, let it be stated that this organization for the uplift of business methods and business men, started in Chicago by a handful of men a little more than fifteen years ago, now has clubs of large membership in every corner of the civilized globe—Canada, England, Scotland, China, Japan, South America, Cuba—all of which sent representatives to the convention just closed in Atlantic City.



President Knoepfel wishes to say to them: "To you, our brother Rotarians who are visiting in this city, of which we are so proud, we offer our time, our attention and our earnest endeavor to make your stay one worthy to be remembered for all time."

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The Rotary Club of New York is an organization of men representing all lines of commercial activity. Its purpose is to lift men and business to a higher ethical level. Headquarters 22d floor, Hotel McAlpin.

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On Business Fashion

QUEEN ELIZABETH
squeezed her waist to seventeen inches. Miss 1920 is not ashamed of twenty-seven. Just a question of fashion, governed by vanity.

There is a fashion in business, governed by common sense. Once upon a time the cubbyhole desk, the feather duster, and the letter press held office sway. Where are they now?

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